

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 03029 251450Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 3029

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EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY READ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AODE
SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS BY CHIEF OF MISSION

REF: A) GEORGETOWN 1487 ?) GEORGETOWN 2178

1. I HAVE REVIEWED THE TWO TELEGRAMS UNDER REFERENCE WHICH RESPONDED RESPECTIVELY TO STATE CIRCULARS 154335 AND 201122 AND WERE ORIGINATED BEFORE MY ARRIVAL AT POST. I WOULD SUBSCRIBE TO THE JUDGMENTS EXPRESSED IN THESE TWO TELEGRAMS. GEORGETOWN IS OBVIOUSLY A "SPECIAL" CASE. THE MISSION WAS WITHOUT AN AMBASSADOR FOR OVER A YEAR. IN THAT PERIOD THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE 7 . . GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA DETERIORATED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS WHICH DO NOT MERIT REITERATION IN THIS CABLE. WITHIN THE LAST TEN MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICEABLE UPTURN IN THE RELATIONSHIP TO THE POINT WHERE IT MAY NOW BE DESCRIBED AS APPROXIMATELY NORMAL. WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS WE HAVE HAD VISITS BY UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, AMBASSADOR YOUNG, AND WE ARE NOW ON THE EVE OF A VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN. THIS REPRESENTS MORE HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION
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THAN GUYANA HAS RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON IN THE ENTIRE PERIOD SINCE ITS ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE IN 1966.

2. DURING THE VISIT BY ANDREW YOUNG IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT WE WOULD STEP UP OUR BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IN GUYANA TO A LEVEL OF APPROXIMATELY TWELVE MILLION DOLLARS IN LOANS AND GRANTS FOR THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR WITH THE PROSPECT

OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IF PROGRAMS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND PREPARED. IN THE PRESENT IMPROVING ENVIRONMENT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REINVIGORATE THE RELATIONSHIP AT ALL LEVELS WITHIN THE GUYANA BODY POLITIC. THUS, OUR INFORMATION PROGRAM HERE IS MUCH MORE VITAL THAN IT HAS BEEN IN AT LEAST THE LAST TWO YEARS. AS WAS NOTED IN REFERENCE B THERE ARE NOW "RENEWED OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE INTENSIVE DIALOGUE ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, INCREASING OFFICIAL AND REPRESENTATIONAL CONTACTS, AND CONSEQUENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR A GREATER FLOW OF INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS." WE ARE FACING THIS SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER LEVEL OF ACTIVITY WITH APPROXIMATELY THE SAME NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE HAD FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. I AM PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT A STAFF OF THIS SIZE WILL BE ABLE TO PERFORM AT THIS HIGHER LEVEL WITHOUT AUGMENTATION; I WOULD, HOWEVER, FEEL THAT WERE THE STAFF TO BE DECREASED IT COULD BE DONE ONLY AT SERIOUS RISK TO OUR ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION THAT WE NOW HAVE BEFORE US. I WOULD HOPE THEREFORE THAT THE ALREADY LEAN STAFF AT EMBASSY GEORGETOWN COULD BE SPARED ANY FURTHER CUTS.

3. AS A FINAL FOOTNOTE, THOUGH I KNOW THAT COMPARISONS ARE ODIUS, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE RESIDENT STAFF AT THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN GEORGETOWN IS NOW APPROXIMATELY 24; THE RESIDENT SOVIET STAFF, AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, CONSISTS OF AT LEAST

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18 OFFICERS, 2 CHAUFFEURS AND 2 TASS CORRESPONDENTS; AND THE CUBAN MISSION HAS AT LEAST 24 FULLTIME ASSIGNED STAFF WITH A TDY CONTINGENT THAT FLUCTUATES ANYWHRE FROM 20 TO 50. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH FIGURES FOR THE SIZE OF THE RESIDENT CHINESE MISSION THOUGH VARIOUS ESTIMATES PUT IT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 40. IT WOULD SEEM THAT U.S. INTERESTS IN GUYANA WARRANT THE PRESENCE OF AN AMERICAN STAFF AT LEAST ROUGHLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE WHICH OUR BRITISH ALLY AND VARIOUS BLOC NATIONS SEEM TO FEEL THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE GOG MERIT. THE AMERICAN PROFILE IN GUYANA IS NO HIGHER THAN SEVERAL OTHERS.

4. I HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS CABLE AS WELL AS THE TWO EARLIER ONES WITH THE SENIOR AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES IN COUNTRY.

BURKE

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